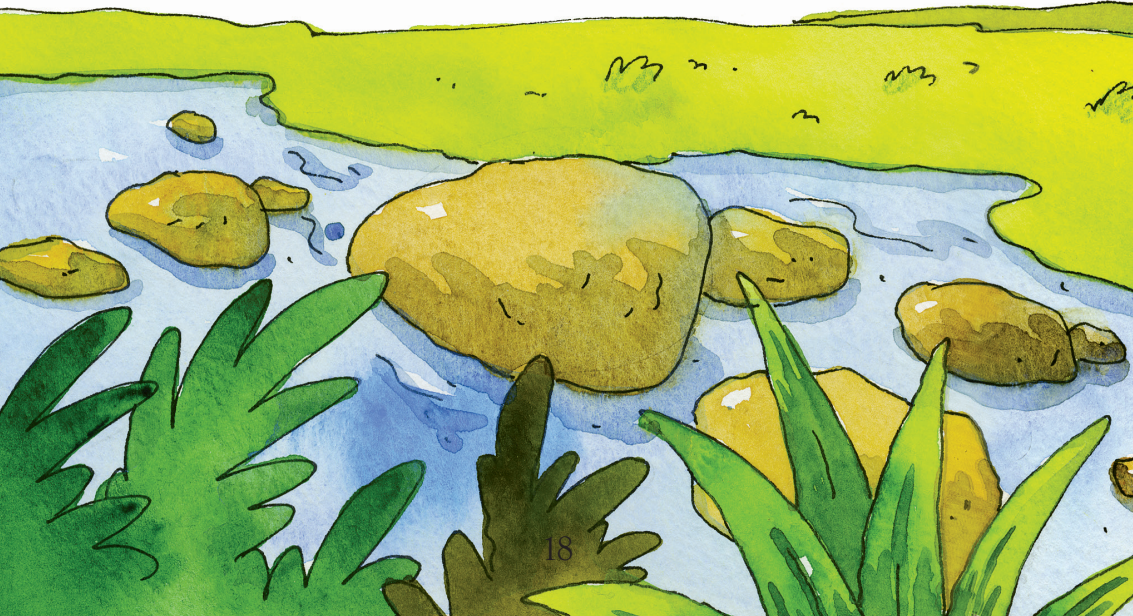




The First Man

In the beginning there was nothing. Then Allah said: “Be!” and the world was made.





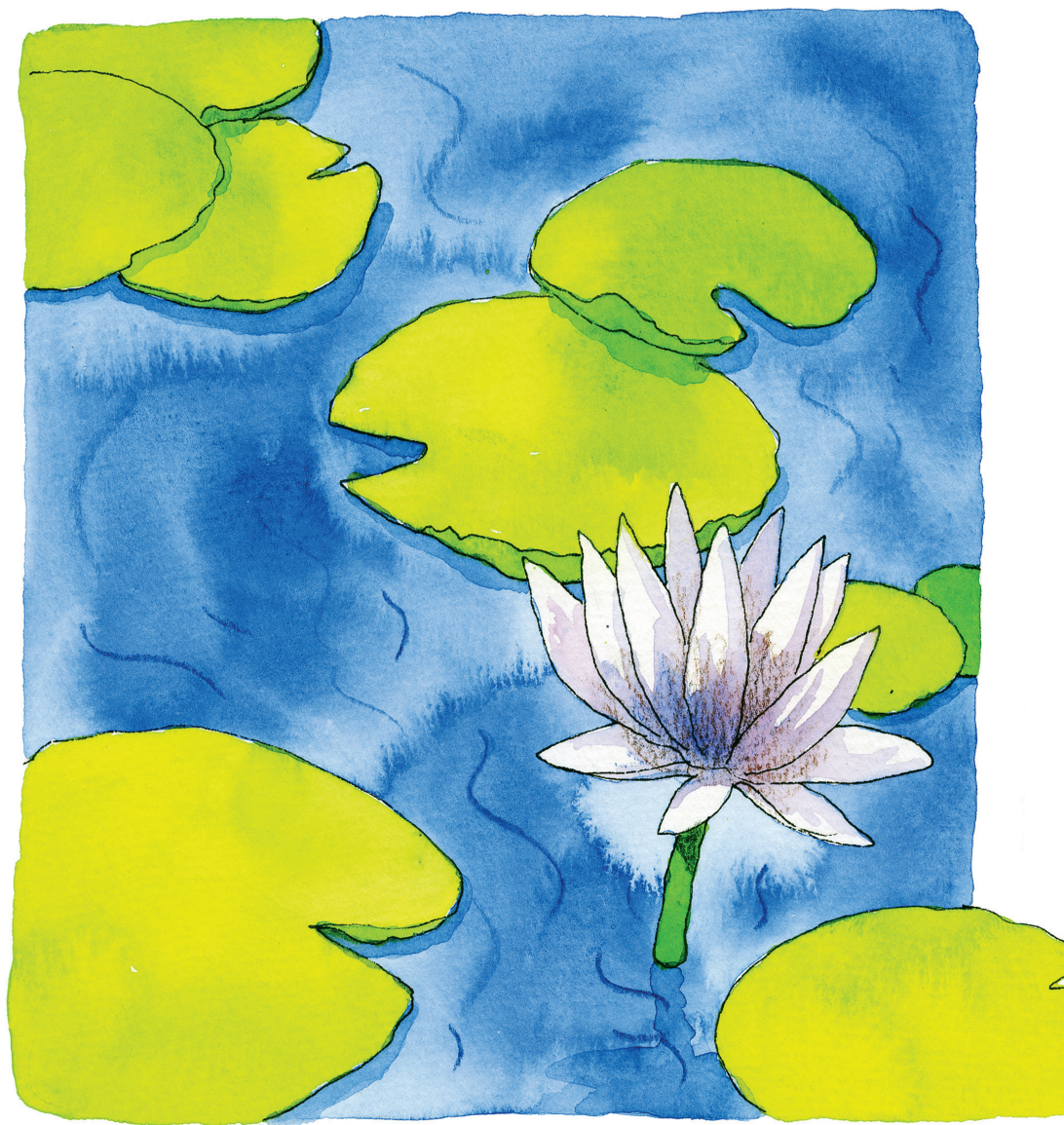
The world is like a huge machine.
It runs all the time. It never stops.
And it runs very smoothly.







Allah made angels. The angels are very powerful. What do the angels do? The angels see to it that all the commands of Allah are obeyed in every corner of the world. The angels tell the winds when to blow. They tell the clouds where to go. They tell the rain where to rain. And they record everything that is happening in the world.



When the world was already running beautifully, Allah wanted to make a human being. So Allah collected all kinds of soil: He took dry sand and moist earth and sticky mud. He mixed them all like a potter's clay. He molded it into the shape of man.

Finally He breathed His spirit into it. He named the first man Adam عليه السلام. Then He made the first woman. He called her Hawwa or Eve. Allah loved Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa. He gave them many gifts. He gave them eyes to see the beautiful world. He gave them ears to hear the birds sing. He gave them voice so that they may talk to each other. And He gave them mind to understand what is good and what is bad.

Allah wanted Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa to live on the earth. There was one part of the earth, which was more beautiful than the rest. It was called the Garden of Paradise. Allah wanted Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa to live in this beautiful garden.





5



Allah Made Them All

Allah has made all the animals, birds, insects and fish.
He has made them all. Some fly. Some swim.
Some creep on their tummies. Some walk on two legs.
And some walk on four legs.





Allah has made fish. Some fish live in the lakes.
Some fish live in the rivers. And some live in the seas.

In the sea there are big whales. There are also
dangerous sharks and friendly dolphins. There are
strange looking octopuses and beautiful starfish. Allah
has taught them all how to swim in the sea.





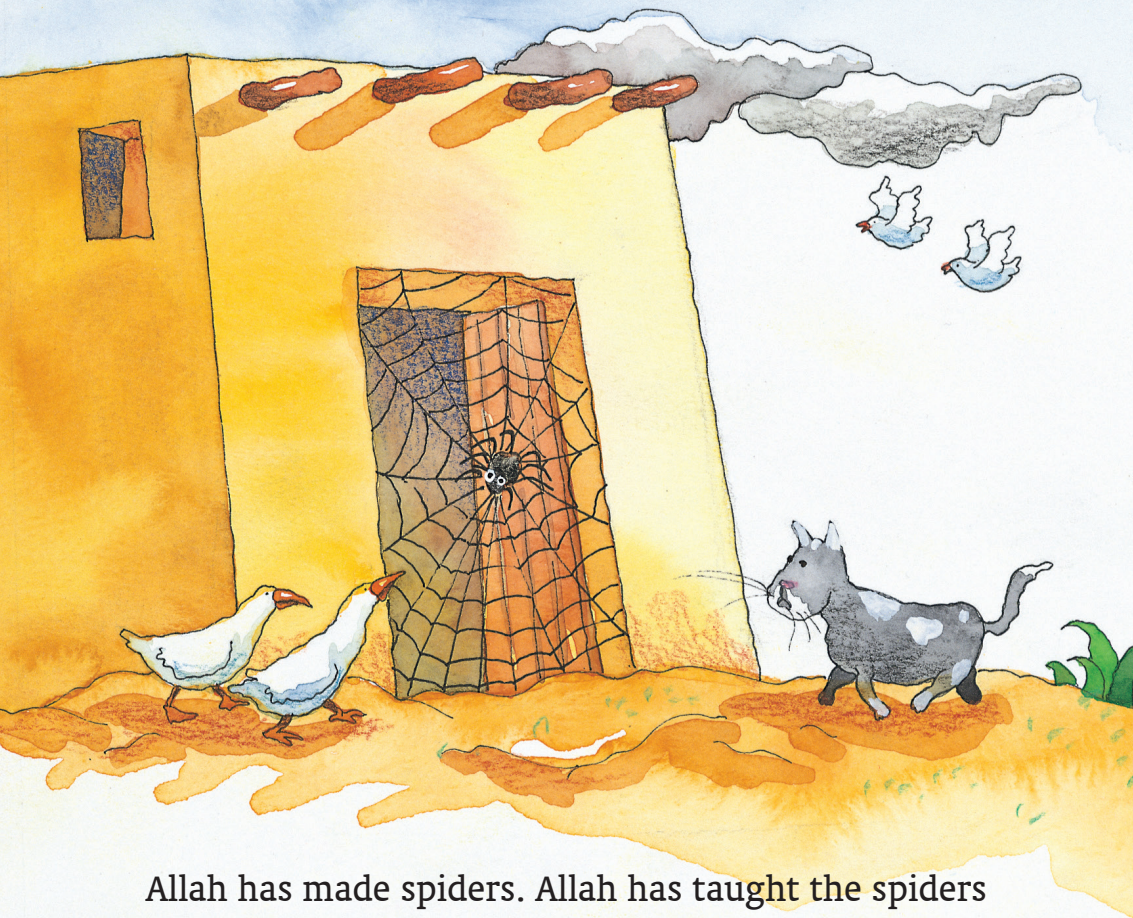
Allah has made the birds. He made them all: the small sparrows and the huge eagles. All birds have wings. Some birds fly high in the sky. Allah has taught the birds how to fly so high.

Allah has made cows and goats. They give us milk. We drink milk and grow healthy and strong. We make butter, yogurt and cheese from milk.



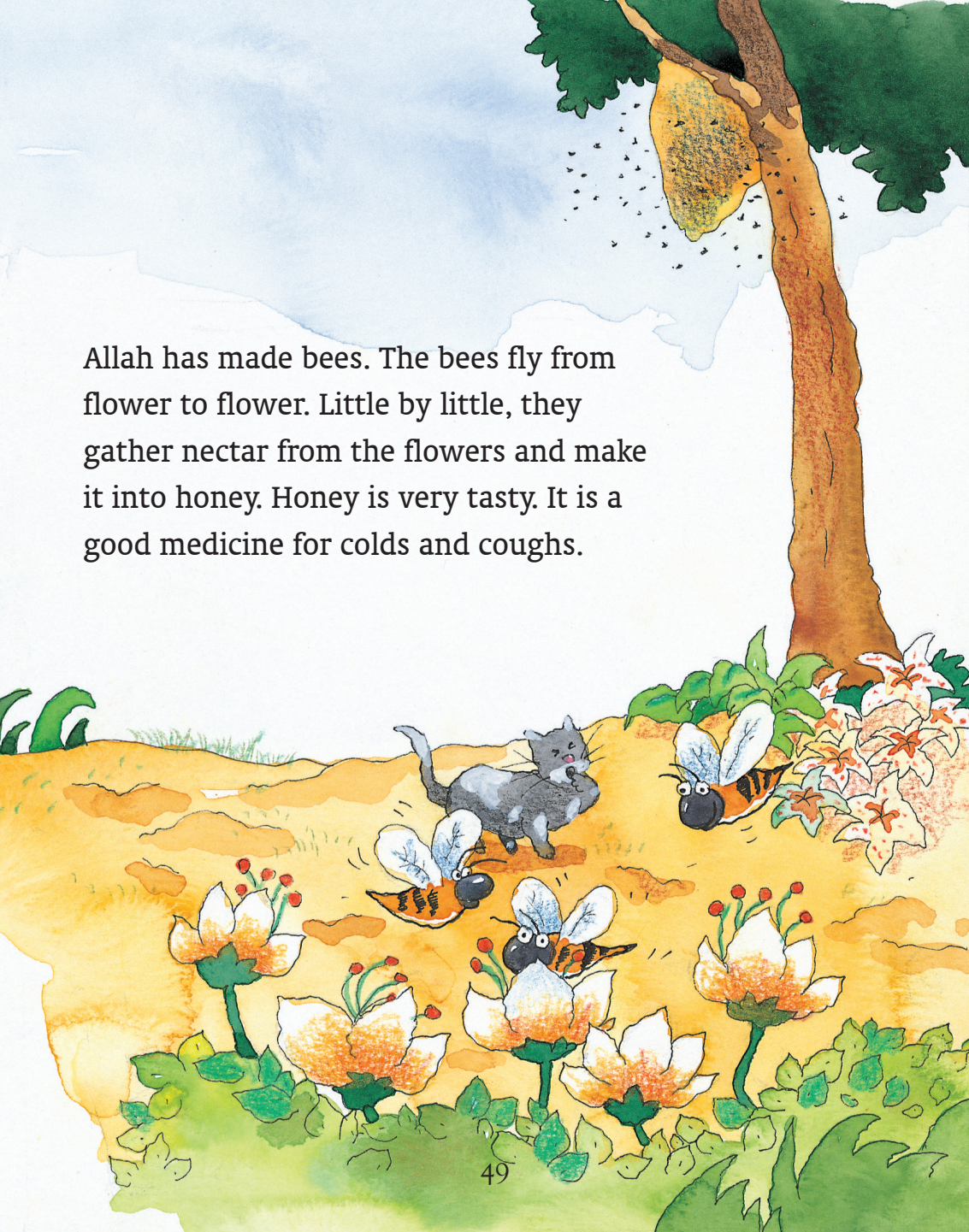
Allah has made sheep. The sheep are covered with woolly coats. From their wool we make sweaters, mufflers and blankets. They keep us warm on cold days.





Allah has made spiders. Allah has taught the spiders how to weave webs. The spiders are small but they weave huge webs. A tiny spider's web can block a large window. It can even block a door.

Allah has made bees. The bees fly from flower to flower. Little by little, they gather nectar from the flowers and make it into honey. Honey is very tasty. It is a good medicine for colds and coughs.



Allah has made horses and donkeys and camels.
They are strong. They help us carry heavy things from
place to place. In olden times there were no cars.
People would ride horses or donkeys. In the desert,
even today, people travel on camels.



Allah has made all the animals, birds,
insects and fish. They all belong to
Allah. Allah is great.





Building the Kabah

There was a dry, sandy valley in Arabia. Nothing grew there. Nobody lived there. There was no water either for man or animals.

Allah told the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to leave Hajra and Ismail there. Little Ismail was very thirsty and cried bitterly. He kicked the ground with his foot.

Suddenly water started to flow in the sand! This was the spring of Zamzam. It gave water to the desert valley. More people came and made houses there. This is how Makkah was built.

One day, Allah ordered the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to build the Kabah — the House of God.

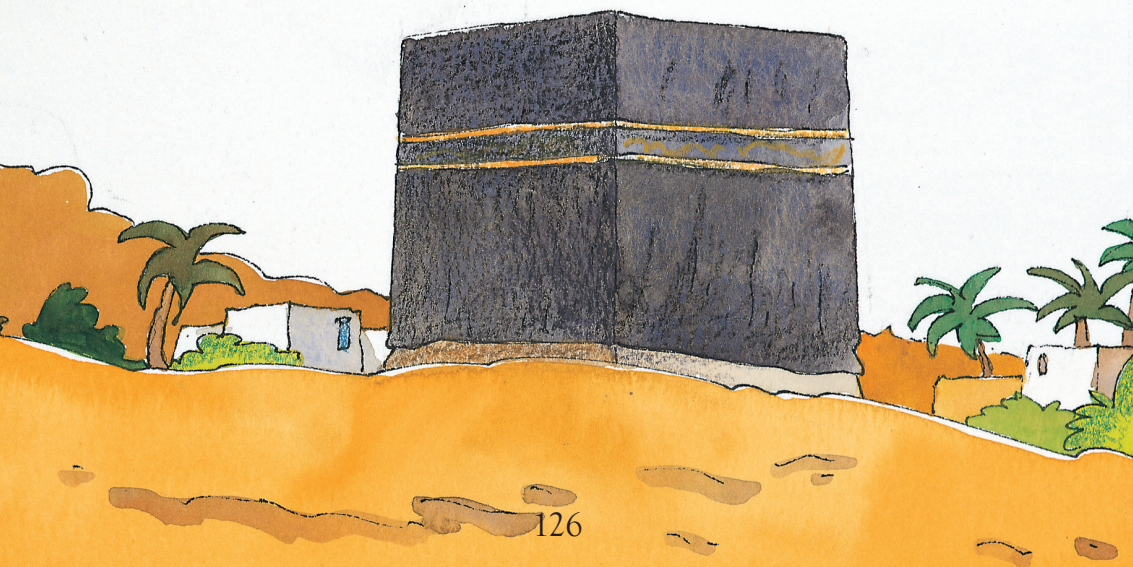
The Prophets Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail climbed the hills. They found big stones. They pushed the heavy stones down and put them in one place. When they had lots of stones, they started to build the House.

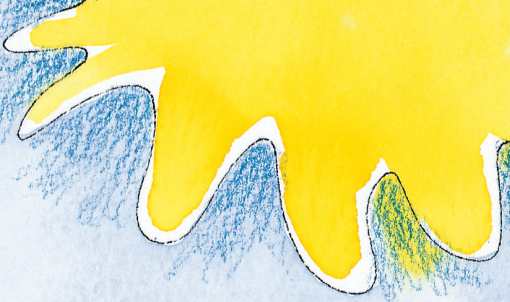
They made the walls. After that, they made the roof. It was a simple but beautiful house.



All the time, while building the House of God, they prayed: “Our Lord! Accept our work! Accept this House we are making for You.”

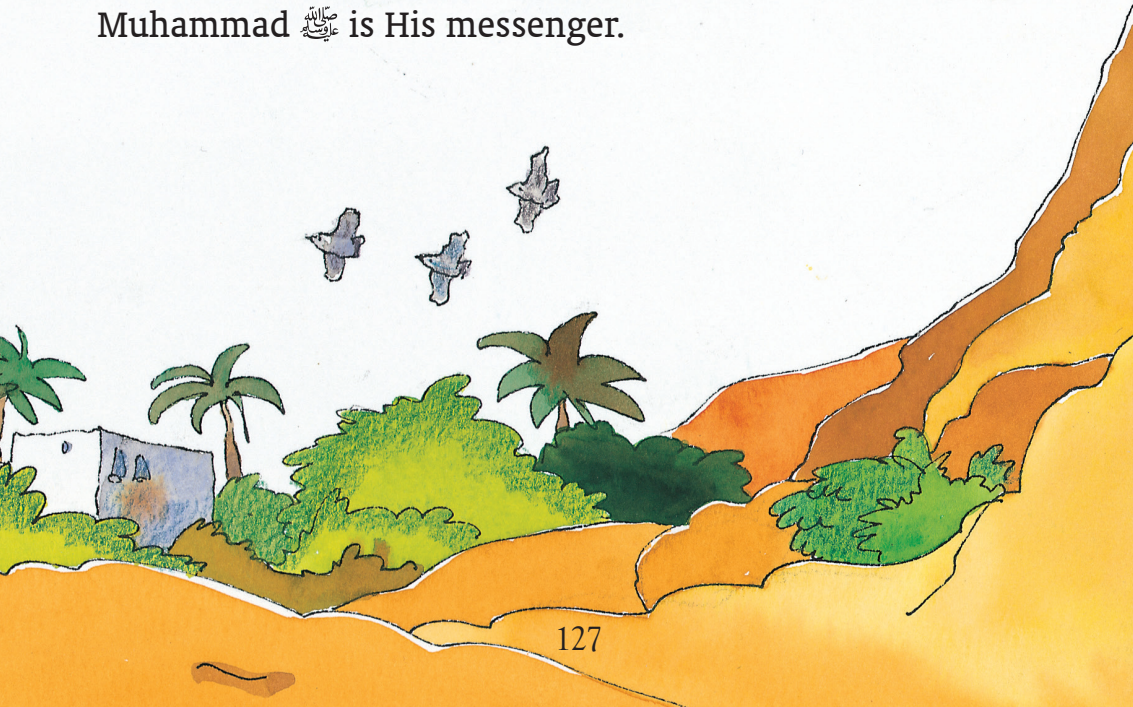
They also prayed: “Make us good so that we always bow to Allah and pray to Him. Make our people good. Make our people love You and bow to you and pray to You. Be merciful to our people. Make them turn away from anything bad and wicked.





Let a great prophet be born in our family. Hear our prayers. You are the Most Merciful.”

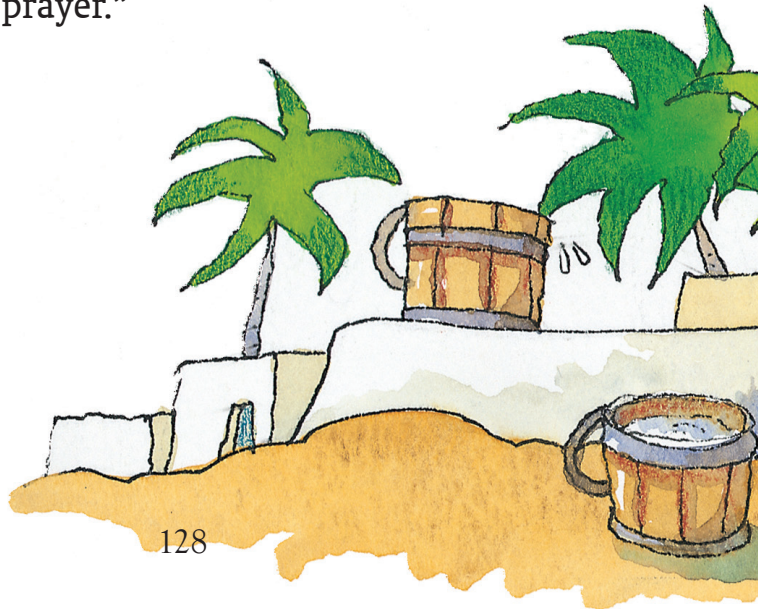
Allah listened to their prayer. Many, many years later, a great prophet was born in Arabia. He was the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. There is no god but Allah and Muhammad ﷺ is His messenger.



The First Call to Hajj

Once the House of Allah was ready, Allah said to Ibrahim: “Clean the Kabah. Make it clean and pure. Then people can come and pray.”

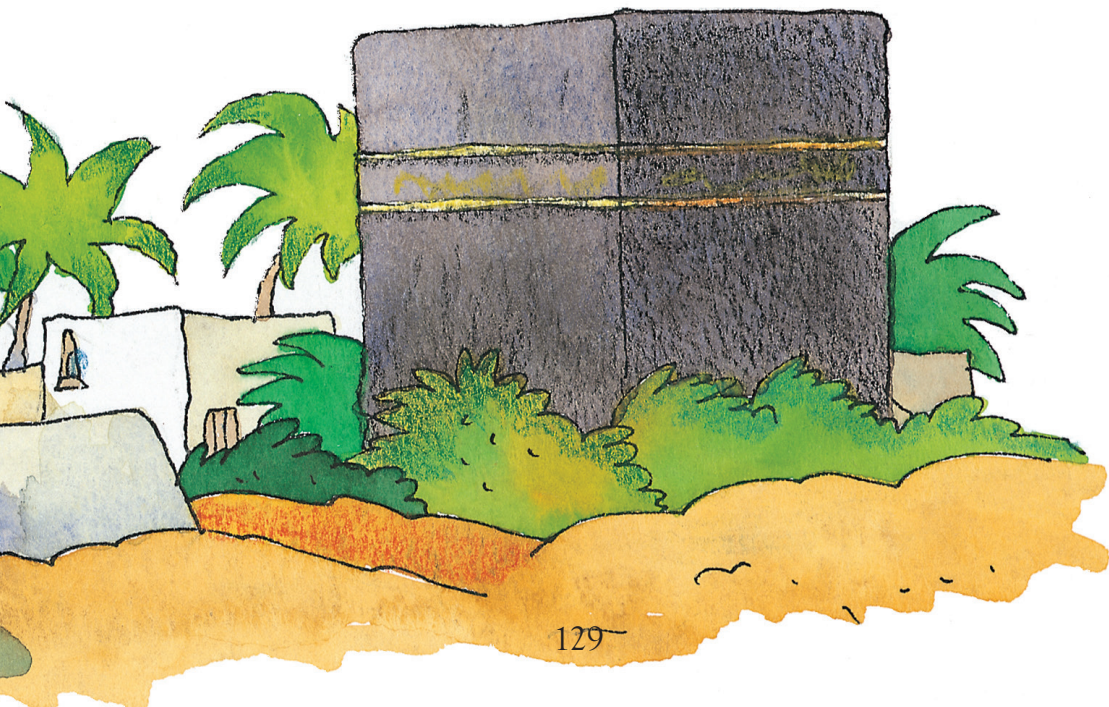
Allah also said: “This is my House. Do not keep anything else here. Then people may pray to Me in peace. They should walk around Kabah. They should pray standing. They should bow and prostrate themselves in prayer.”



Allah ordered the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام: “Call people to come to the Kabah. Call people to Hajj. Call them to pray together in the House of Allah.”

People in all corners of Arabia heard the call to Hajj. They came to Makkah. Some came on foot.

Some came riding swift camels. Some came alone and some came with family and friends. Some came from far, far away. They had to cross deep valleys and high mountains and hot deserts.



They were so tired that they could not stand. But they all hurried to Makkah. They all wanted to pray in the Kabah. They all came on Hajj.

Why were people called to Hajj? They were called to come to the Kabah. They were called to come to the House of Allah. They were called to pray to Allah, who made the world. They were called to bow to Allah, who was their Lord. The House of Allah is full of blessings. It is full of guidance. That is why Allah ordered that All men and women must go on Hajj at least once in their life.



They must come and pray there. Allah also fixed the days for Hajj, and ordered people to perform Hajj at that time. And sacrifice a goat or other animal. This is to remember how the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail obeyed Him.

Once a year believers go on Hajj. They travel from all over the world. They come in planes, in boats, in cars and buses. They all come to the Kabah in Makkah. They stand together and pray. Grown-ups and children, rich people and poor people, people from many countries: all of them pray together. They are all brothers and sisters in Islam. They are all servants of Allah and Allah loves them all.



The Most Patient Man



A long time ago, in the land
of Syria, there lived a man.
His name was Ayyub, or Job.
He loved Allah very much.
And Allah made him very wise.
And He made him a very rich man.
He was also a prophet.

The Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام had many fields.
He had many sheep. His house was very big.
There were many servants in the house.

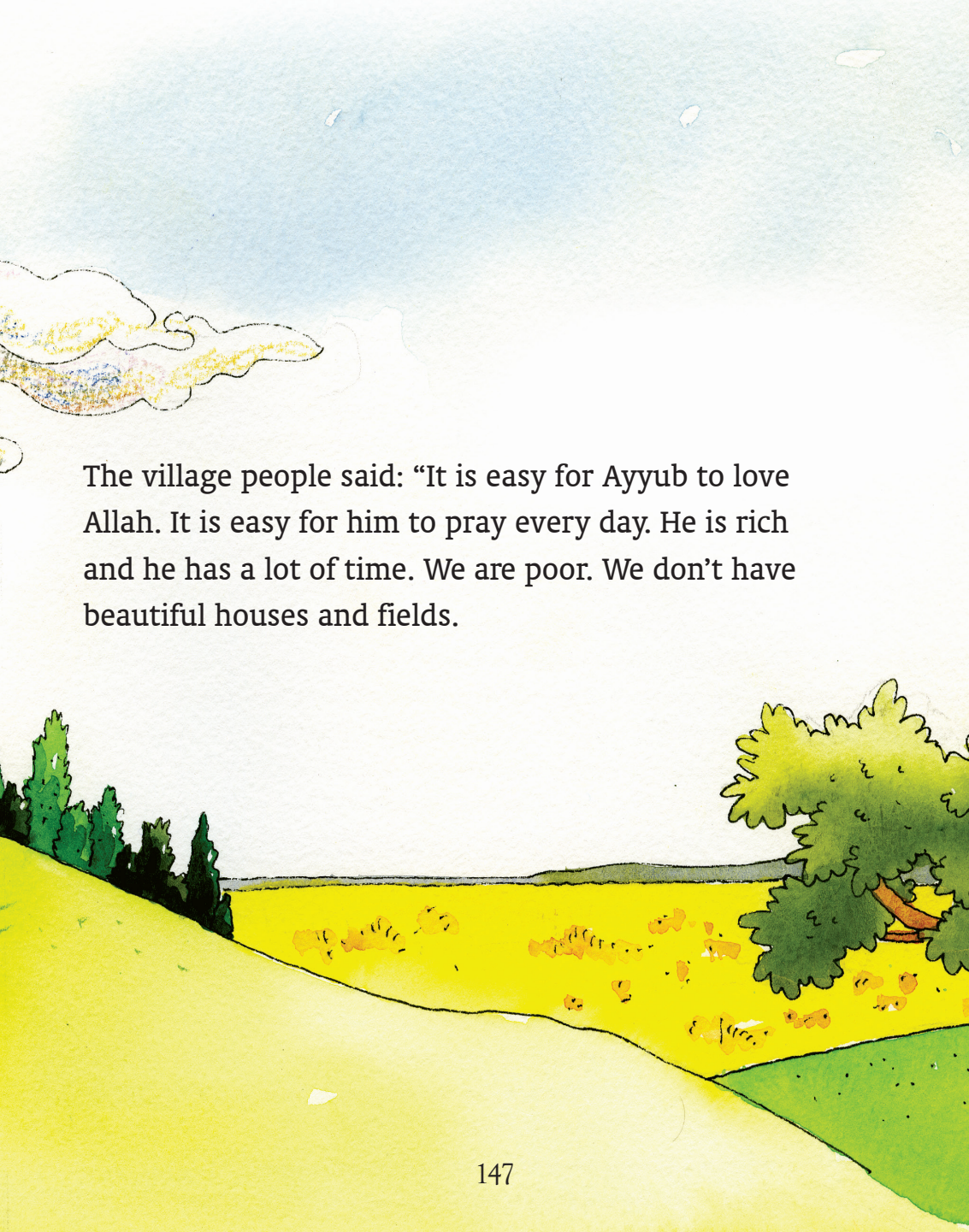






And his children were very good. The Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام knew that everything came from Allah.

He knew that Allah gave him fields, sheep and money. He prayed to Allah, thanking Him for the gifts.



The village people said: “It is easy for Ayyub to love Allah. It is easy for him to pray every day. He is rich and he has a lot of time. We are poor. We don’t have beautiful houses and fields.

If Ayyub were poor like us, he would never love Allah so much! He would not pray all the time!”

Allah wanted to show people that they were wrong, so He tested the Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام. He wanted to show them that the Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام would never stop loving Him. So He put the Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام to the test.



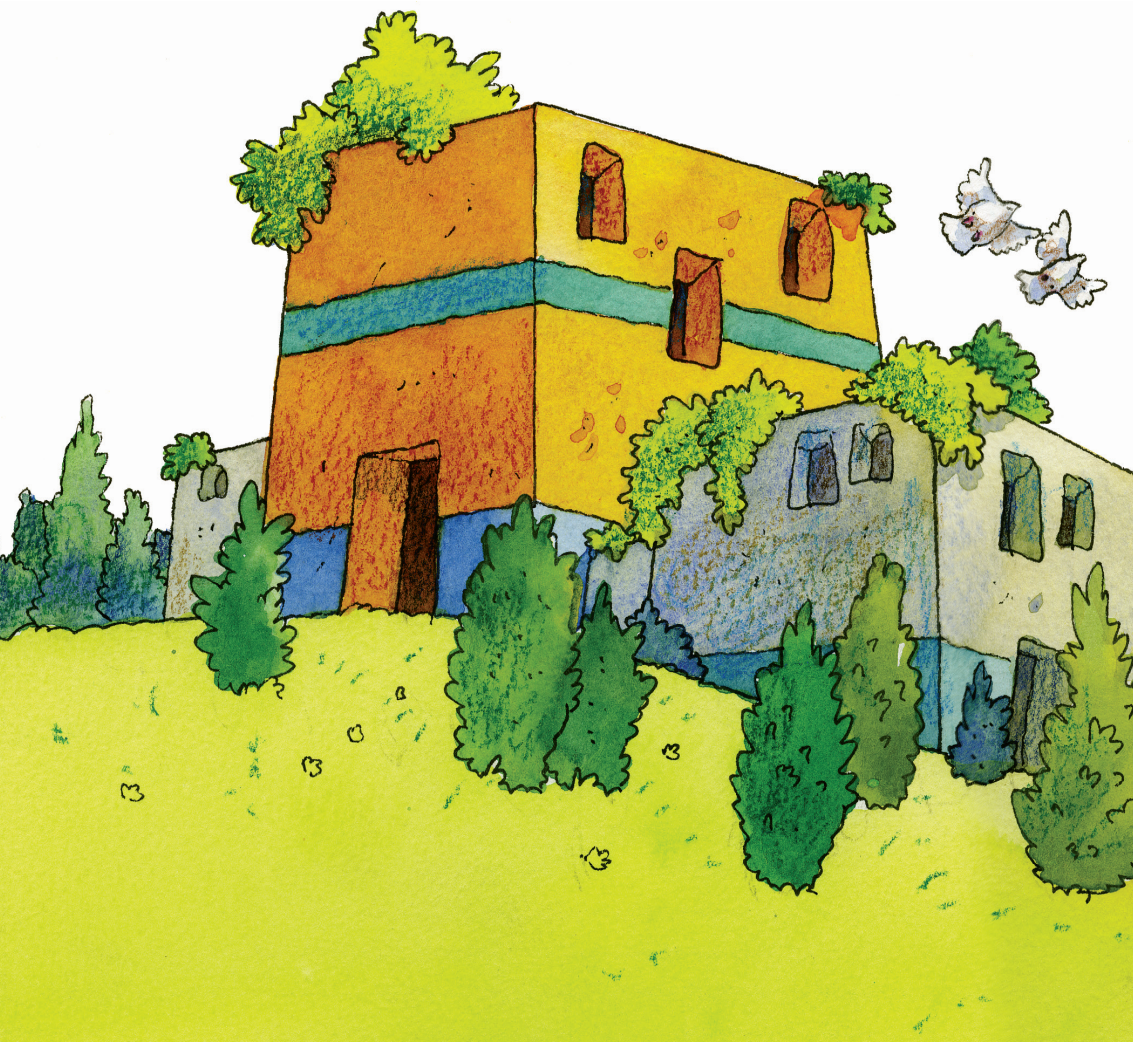
One day, the Prophet Ayyub's sheep got lost. The next day, all the water in the fields and gardens dried up. The Prophet Ayyub ^{عليه السلام} became poor. His family members died except his wife. The Prophet Ayyub ^{عليه السلام} was left all alone. And then he got sick.





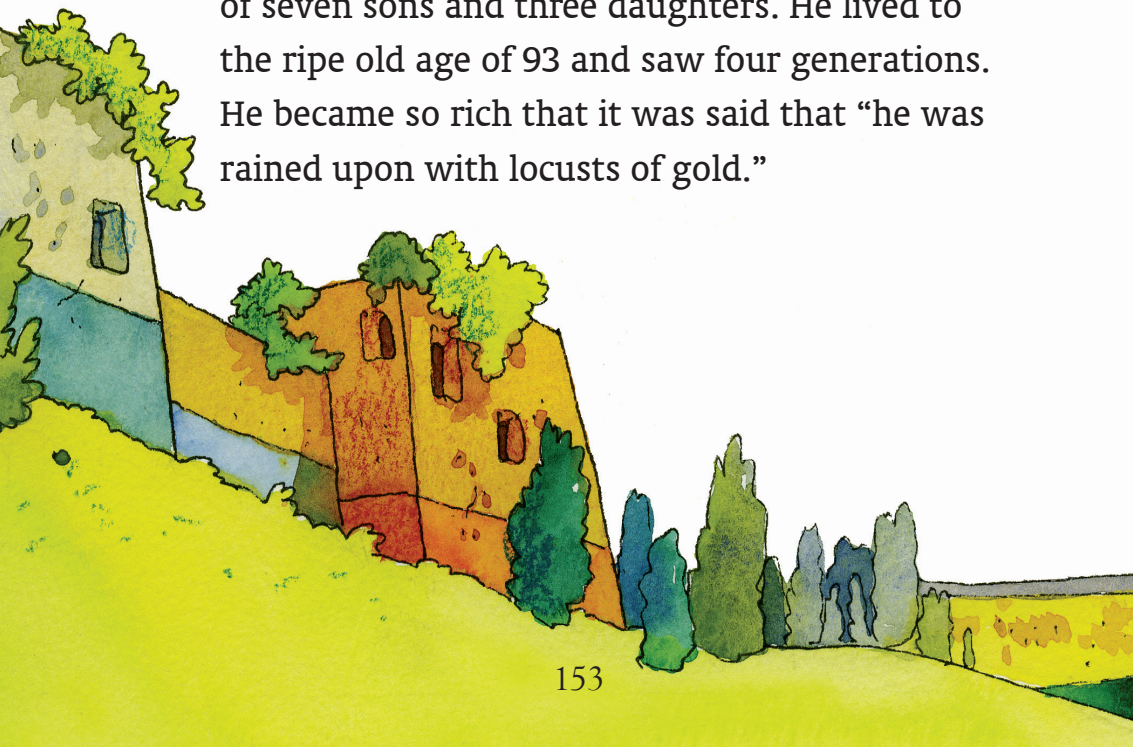
The Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام did not complain. He did not stop praying to Allah. He knew Allah would help him. He praised Allah: “I am overcome by distress. But You are the Most Merciful of all those that are merciful.”

Allah liked the Prophet Ayyub's patience. He said to Ayyub: “Strike your feet on the ground.” And a spring gushed forth. Allah commanded the Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام to have a bath with the spring water and he will be healthy again.



The Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام became well again. Allah again gave him a big house. He gave him fields and sheep. He gave him many children. He made him even richer than before.

Because the Prophet Ayyub عليه السلام had showed great patience throughout the worst of disasters, Allah not only rewarded him with great bounty in the Hereafter, but redoubled his former prosperity in this world. He had a new family of seven sons and three daughters. He lived to the ripe old age of 93 and saw four generations. He became so rich that it was said that “he was rained upon with locusts of gold.”



The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام and the Big Fish

This happened a long, long time ago. In the city of Nineveh there lived a man.

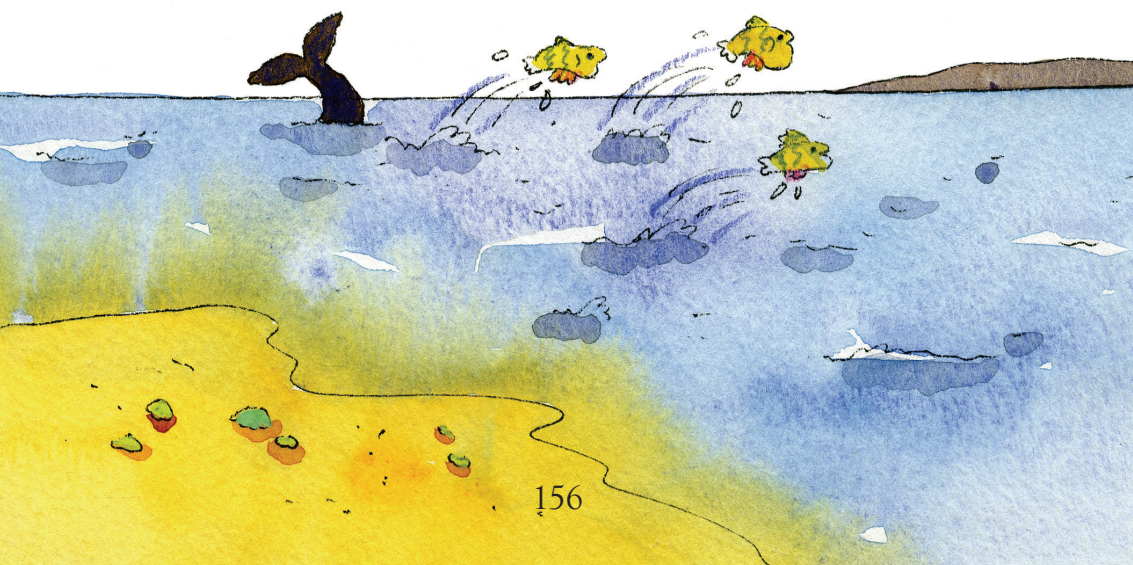


He was called Yunus, or Jonah عليه السلام. And he was a prophet of Allah. Allah sends prophets when He wants to tell people something special. He sent the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام to teach people about Allah.

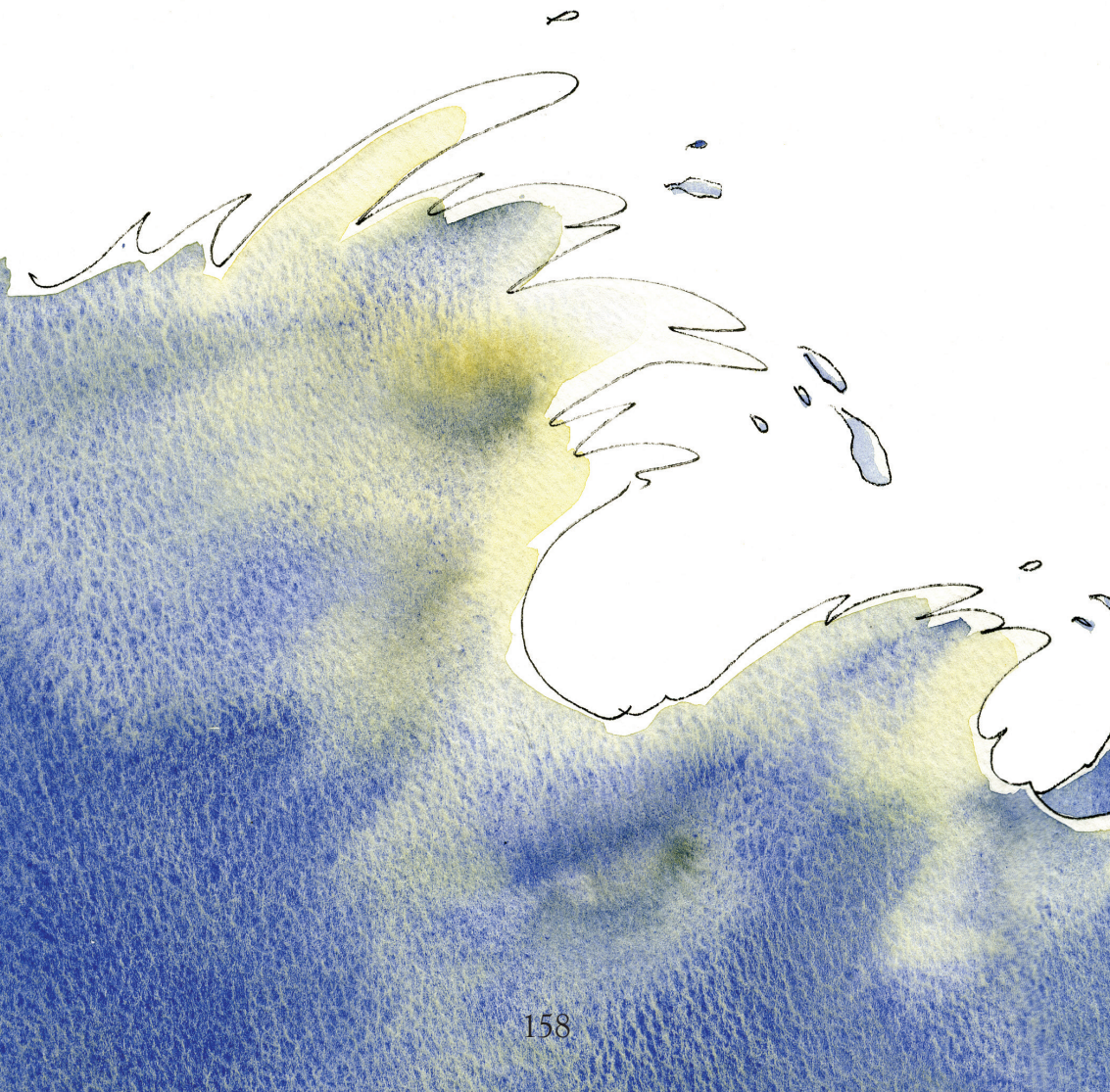


But the people did not listen to the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام. They laughed at him. The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام got very angry with these people and moved away from the city of Nineveh.

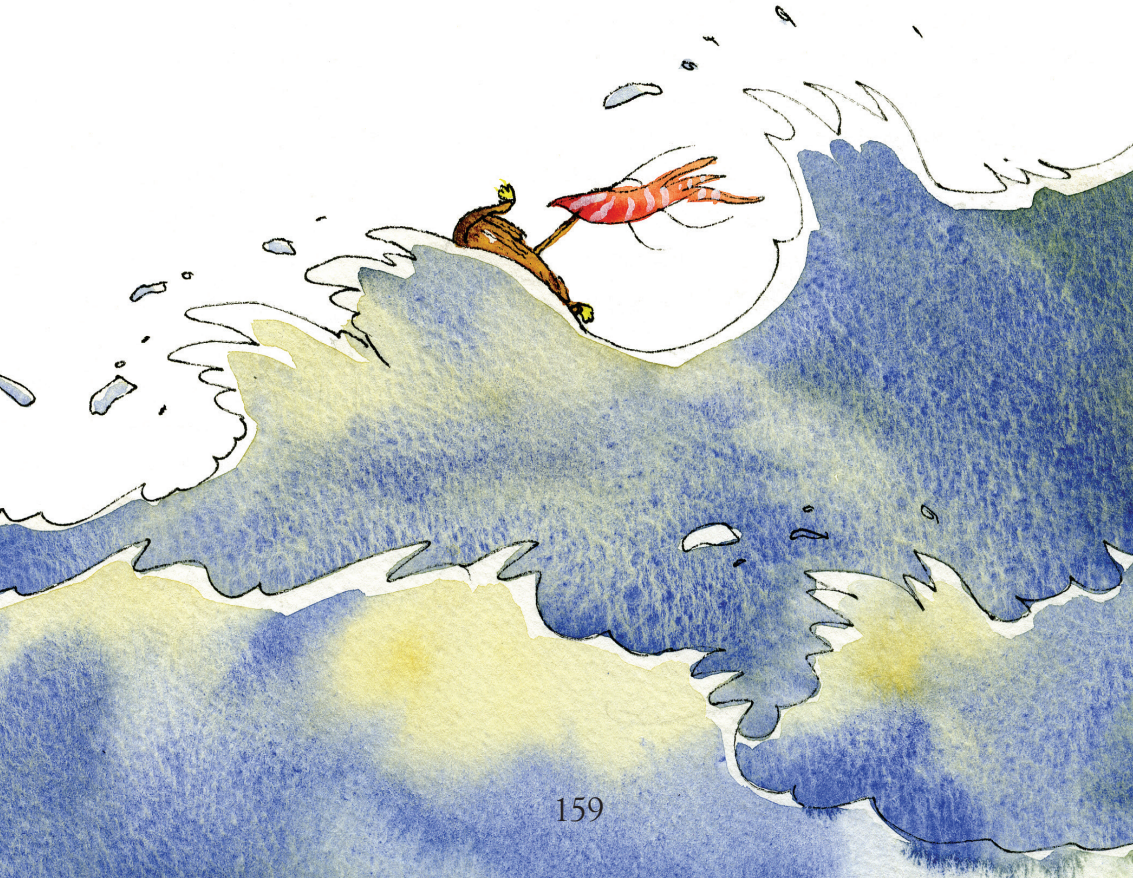
He went to the seashore. A ship was about to sail. Without thinking twice, he jumped on board the ship.

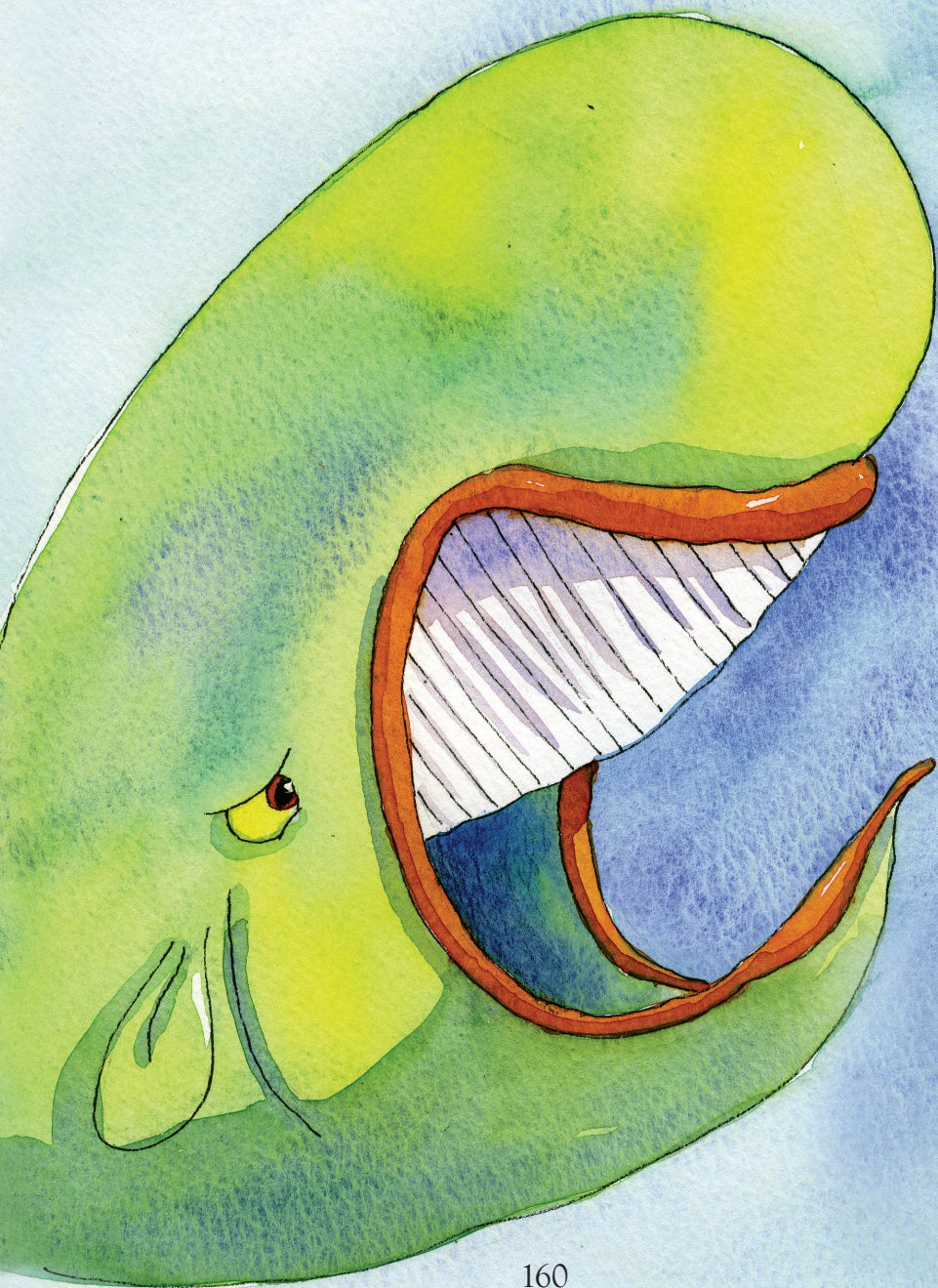






The ship was in the middle of the sea. Suddenly it became dark and a strong wind began to blow. A terrible storm tossed the ship to and fro. The sailors and passengers got scared. They got hold of the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام and threw him overboard.





The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام tried to swim. But a big fish came and swallowed him. Soon he found himself inside its huge stomach. Frightened, he remembered Allah. He prayed: "There is no god but You! Glory be to You! I have done wrong." And he realised that he should've not have run away from his people, as he had not done what Allah wanted him to do!





Allah heard his prayer. He told the fish to take the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام to the shore. In no time he found himself on a sandy beach. The Prophet Yunus عليه السلام rested on the beach. He drank some water from a spring. He ate some juicy fruit from a tree. Then he returned to his home town.

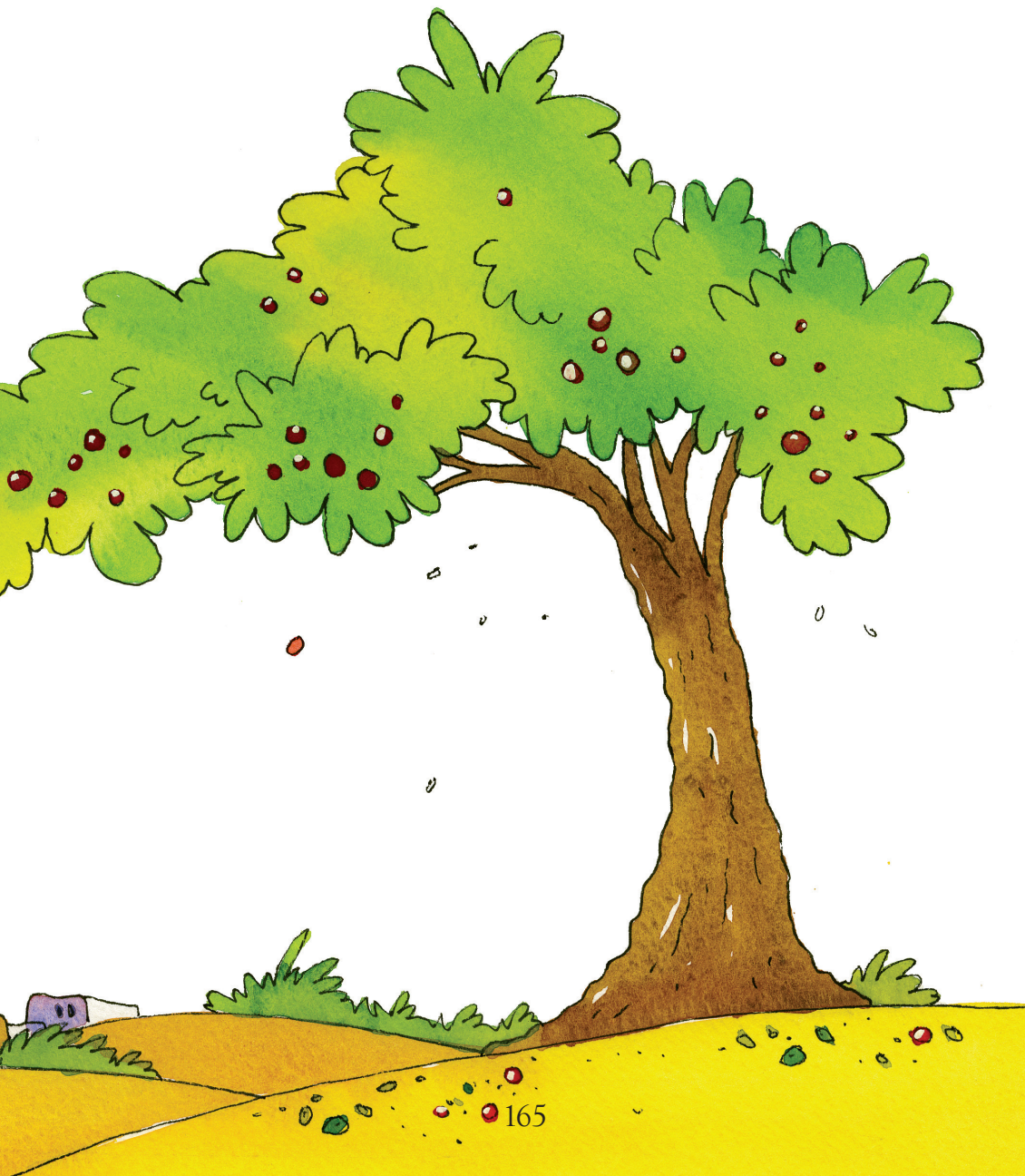


People gathered around the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام. He called them to Allah and warned them of the Day of Judgement. A most surprising thing happened! Everybody began to listen to the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام! Everybody started to pray to Allah!

Allah helps us to be successful. But He does not like us to leave the work halfway. With Allah's help we can finish every piece of work! He helps us with everything!

The lesson in the story of the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام is twofold. Firstly, the great duty to deliver the message of Allah to others now falls on every Muslim. If we ignore this duty and become desperate (as the Prophet Yunus عليه السلام was at first), we will be found guilty of not carrying out the task set for us by Allah.





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